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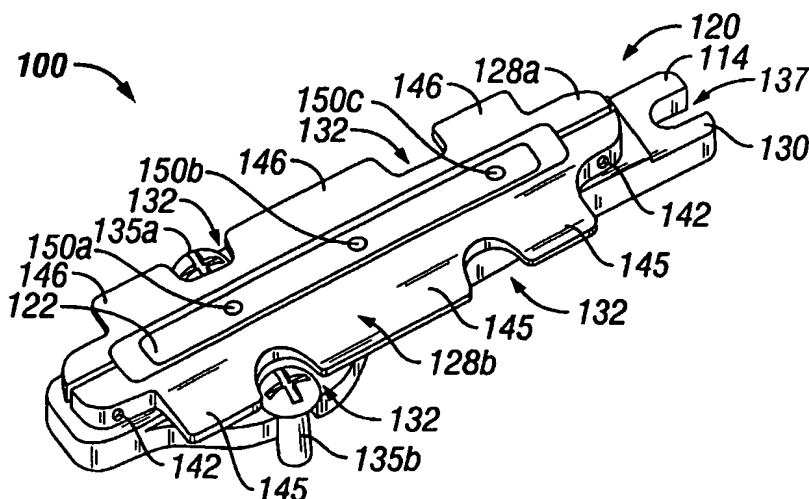
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(54) Title: ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT WHICH REDUCES THERMAL DAMAGE TO ADJACENT TISSUE



(57) Abstract: An electrode sealing assembly for use in combination with an electrosurgical instrument includes first and second jaw members which are movable from a first, spaced-apart position to a second position to grasp tissue. Each of the jaw members includes an insulative housing, a thermally conductive, electrically non-conductive material and a sealing plate. The insulative housing has a series of electromechanical interfaces which mate with a corresponding series of electromechanical interfaces which extend from the sealing plate such that the sealing plates are capable of conducting bipolar energy through tissue held between the jaw members. The thermally conductive, electrically nonconductive material is

configured to encapsulate and secure the sealing plate to the insulative housing.